

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /130 W
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R 171819Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6538
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS LONDON 14866

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PA, IN, AF

SUBJECT: BHUTTO CALLS FOR RENEWED RELATIONS WITH INDIA
AND REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES

1. ACCORDING TO LONDON TIMES ARTICLE DECEMBER 17, PM
BHUTTO IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD CORRESPONDENT KULDIP
NAYAR IN AN INTERVIEW DEC 15 THAT IT SOUNDS UNNATURAL FOR
INDIA AND PAKISTAN NOT TO HAVE AMBASSADORS IN EACH OTHER'S
CAPITALS.

2. BHUTTO REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN TO
INDIA BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO RECIPROCAL VISIT. BHUTTO IS
QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT WILL ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF
NORMAL RELATIONS IF MRS. GANDHI VISITS PAKISTAN. IF
SHE DOES NOT, IT WILL MAKE US UNDERSTAND THAT IT CANNOT
BE DONE."

3. BHUTTO UNDERLINED NEED FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SET-
TLEMENT ON KASHMIR. HOWEVER, CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES
BHUTTO'S STANCE AS HARDER THAN WHEN CORRESPONDENT LAST
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SPOKE WITH HIM IN APRIL 1972, NOTING THAT IN 1972 BHUTTO
SUGGESTED CONVERTING THE CEASEFIRE LINE INTO LINE OF

PEACE. THIS TIME BHUTTO REPORTEDLY SAID: "THE LINE OF PEACE DOES NOT BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL LINE. I SHALL MAINTAIN THAT WE CAN MAKE IT A LINE OF PEACE RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION AND TENSION WHICH CAN BE REMOVED WITHOUT HAVING RESOLVED THE PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS STILL THERE. INSTEAD OF THE TWO ARMIES FACING EACH OTHER, WE WOULD SIT ACROSS THE TABLE AND TALK OF ITS SOLUTION."

4. FINALLY BHUTTO REPORTEDLY REPEATED HIS OFFER TO DISCUSS WITH INDIA REDUCTION OF THE ARMED FORCES CONFRONTING EACH OTHER, INCLUDING SYSTEM OF INSPECTIONS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID HE COULD NOT UNILATERALLY REDUCE HIS FORCES BECAUSE ON ONE SIDE WAS POWERFUL INDIA AND ON OTHER AFGHANISTAN, WHICH HAD BECOME HOSTILE UNDER THE NEW REGIME.

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